

15 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Briefing Material for Meeting with  
Howland Sargeant on Friday, 15 February  
at 1435 Hours

This memorandum is for information only.

1. AmComLib Accomplishments

a. Improvement in Radio Liberation program content. The recent addition of new Program Directors in Munich and New York (Bertrandias and King, respectively) contribute skilled professional broadcasting direction which hitherto has been lacking. Signs already are evident of a raise in level of program quality, and of more aggressive and timely exploitation of Soviet vulnerabilities, notably the increasing evidences of discontent among students, intellectuals and the professional managerial class.

b. An increase in the broadcast signal strength from Radio Liberation's West German base from a total of 86 to 300 KW is in progress. The high-powered operation is scheduled to begin in April with the entry into service of the first of four new 50 KW transmitters.

c. Organization, management and communication between New York headquarters and Munich operating base are showing continuous improvement.

d. Added indications of effectiveness are found in the increasing attacks on Radio Liberation and AmComLib by official Soviet media, both press and radio, and the unrelenting efforts of the Soviet jamming system to black out Radio Liberation broadcasts.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

SECRET

1124 3316  
v.E.  
DATE FEB 15 1957 4

e. AmComLib organized a highly effective campaign against Soviet suppression and persecution of trade unionists and democratic socialists which was climaxed by the widely publicized confrontation of Khrushchev and Bulganin by British Labor Party leaders during their visit to London.

f. AmComLib was quick to take advantage of the spirit of sweetness and light manifested by the Soviets during early 1956 by sending a "trainee" on a tourist visit to the Soviet Union. He brought back valuable information both for propaganda and operational purposes.

g. Negotiations with the Spanish Government for a new transmitting base in Spain have reached the point where tentative agreement has been reached on a long-term contract. A formal agreement incorporating the terms under which AmComLib can operate in that country is now under review in the Agency preliminary to signature and formal request for necessary funds to the PRC.

h. Relations with the Adenauer Government of West Germany continue on a friendly and cooperative basis. The climate there might become less hospitable for AmComLib operations should Adenauer die or lose to the SPD in the coming fall elections. In such an eventuality the Spanish transmission site would assume added importance in providing alternate base to which Radio Liberation could retire, if necessary.

i. AmComLib has been credited by the Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence with making a major contribution of intelligence on Soviet bloc jamming activities through its arrangements with the German Deutsches Post and the Japanese Post and Telegraph. Through these arrangements AmComLib has provided OSI with information otherwise unavailable. This contribution has been described as of "particular and unique value" in the past six months during which period the Soviet bloc jamming effort has been in a state of flux as a result of political developments in Poland and Hungary.

SECRET

2. Current Problems

a. Budget: The AmComLib management feels that the hoped-for Agency allocation of funds for FY 1958 will be adequate only for financing going activities without any margin for dealing with new targets of opportunity or inaugurating new long-range operations. We have, of course, been able to make no promise to AmComLib but have held out the hope that the Agency will be able to provide \$4,950,000 for FY 1958. This figure is some \$250,000 less than AmComLib estimates it needs for present operations. AmComLib understands, of course, that if the establishment of a Spanish base is authorized the necessary funds will have to be supplied outside the regular budget.

b. Sentiment expressed by some quarters in the Department of State that AmComLib should be reorganized so as to adopt a new operational approach to the Soviet target, including a possible change of name, minimizing its reliance on emigre elements, and opening its facilities to other organizations, may create new problems for Mr. Sargenat. He has not been informed by us of the efforts begun in this direction, but is quite likely to have picked up some hints about what is going on. A reassuring word to him at this juncture might be well advised.

[ ] [ ]  
CORD MEYER, JR.

Chief

International Organizations Division

C/IO/5. [ ]

[ ] mva (14 February 1957)

Distribution:

- 2 - Addressee
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - DD/P
- 1 - C/PP
- 1 - RI
- 1 - C/IO File
- 1 - IO Chrono
- 2 - C/IO/5

200-124-3911-16